

Application Serial No. 08/845,897
Applicant(s): Imam et al.

PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No.: N.C. 77,897

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 22 presently appear in this case. No claims have been allowed. The Examiner has required Applicant to elect a species for examination from among the various metals and polymers recited in the specification and claims. Applicants hereby elect the species of aluminum metal and epoxy polymer, with traverse. Currently, generic claims 1 through 3 and 17 through 22, along with claims 7 and 12, read on the elected species.

The reasons for traversal are as follows: Section 803 of the M.P.E.P. encourages Examiners to review an entire application on the merits, even though the application may contain claims drawn to patentably distinct inventions, if that examination would not present a serious additional burden. Applicants submit that the claimed groups are sufficiently related that no serious additional burden would be presented by examining the entire application on the merits, regardless of whether the claimed groups are actually patentably distinct.

Additionally, Applicants urge that the close relationship between aluminum and aluminum base alloys particularly suggests that no serious additional burden would be presented by rejoining at least those two species.

Applicants also note the Examiner's statement that the above groups are patentably distinct from each other. Accordingly, Applicants assume that the Examiner will not base a prior art rejection of claims drawn to one group based solely upon prior art relating to the other groups.

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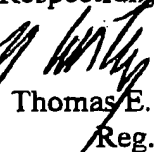
Claim 21 has been revised to clarify the phrase discussed by the Examiner and to remove the extra period.

Kindly charge any additional fees due, or credit overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No.

04-0814.

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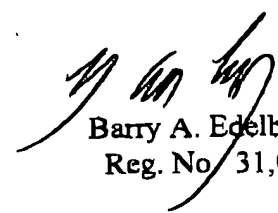
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.


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August 3, 1998